

LYNN WOOLSEY
6TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEES:

EDUCATION AND LABOR

CHAIRWOMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
WORKFORCE PROTECTIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD,
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND ENVIRONMENT

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA
AND GLOBAL HEALTH

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives SEP 10 '07

Washington, DC 20515-0506

August 27, 2007

RECEIVED
Point Reyes
National Seashore

WASHINGTON OFFICE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2263 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-5167

DISTRICT OFFICE
1101 COLLEGE AVENUE, SUITE 300
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404
TELEPHONE: (707) 542-7182

1050 NORTHGATE DRIVE, SUITE 054
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903
TELEPHONE: (415) 507-0554

WEB PAGE AND E-MAIL:
<http://www.woolsey.house.gov>

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SUPT.
<input type="checkbox"/>	SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/>	SPEC. PK. USES
<input type="checkbox"/>	LAW ENFORC.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NAT. RES.
<input type="checkbox"/>	RANGE CONS.
<input type="checkbox"/>	FIRE MGT.
<input type="checkbox"/>	INTERP.
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<input type="checkbox"/>	CONTRACTING
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<input type="checkbox"/>	BUDGET
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CENTRAL FILES

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
c/o Joel Gerwein, Project Manager
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support of Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing to express support for the "Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project" proposed by Point Reyes National Seashore Association (PRNSA). This proposal is a large-scale restoration that will result in site and regional benefits to the ecological and water quality conditions within Tomales Bay. The project has been developed in collaboration and conjunction with the local community, regulatory agencies, and environmental partners.

One of the primary objectives of this watershed-based restoration project is to restore natural hydrologic and ecological processes and functions. It is my understanding the proposed 550-acre tidal marsh restoration at the head of Tomales Bay is the most significant measure available to reestablish natural hydrologic function to the watershed. Because this project would increase the acreage of hydrologically connected wetlands in central California by as much as 12 percent, it is expected to have a tremendous impact on other functions provided by wetlands, such as floodwater retention, food chain support, and wildlife habitat.

The wetland restoration will influence and benefit multiple federal and state listed species and improve water quality to the Bay. Removal of the levees will also reduce localized flooding to homes and communities in the Point Reyes area. Moreover, reestablishing the hydrologic connection between the Bay and this historic salt marsh could potentially play a vital role in improving water quality within Tomales Bay.

The Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project is a legacy project to the community, the watershed, and the National Park Service. This project will greatly benefit the 6th Congressional District and I urge you to give PRNSA's proposal your full and careful consideration. If you have any questions or comments, please contact my grants coordinator, Ed Sheffield, in my Santa Rosa office at (707) 542-7182.

Sincerely,



Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress

LW:esh

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

TOMALES BAY WATERSHED COUNCIL

August 15, 2007

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
c/o Joel Gerwein, Project Manager
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support of Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Bosco:

We are writing to express the support of the Tomales Bay Watershed Council for the "Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project" proposed by Point Reyes National Seashore Association (PRNSA). This major wetlands restoration project is critical to the long term health of Tomales Bay and its watershed, water quality in the region, and will greatly benefit Tomales Bay and surrounding ecosystems and communities.


The watershed based restoration project will remove ranch infrastructure and levees from a 550 acre tidal marsh at the head of Tomales Bay. This will restore natural hydrologic and ecological processes to the wetlands, allowing them to serve as a natural filter for waters entering Tomales Bay. It will also restore a natural floodplain process that will allow sediments to be deposited and absorbed across the project site rather than continue to be delivered to the Bay itself. The restoration will benefit multiple federal and state listed species, and reduce local flooding. The project has been developed in collaboration with the community, regulatory agencies, and is consistent with local community and county plans.

Two-thirds of the freshwater input to Tomales Bay comes from the Lagunitas and Olema Creeks and flows through the project area. The Lagunitas Creek and Olema Creek watersheds support one of the southernmost, stable populations of federal and state endangered coho salmon, as well as federally threatened steelhead trout and Chinook salmon. This project would be a major benefit to these critical salmonid populations.

The Tomales Bay Water Watershed Council is made up of representatives from over 32 local organizations, businesses and government agencies and we are dedicated to promoting sound stewardship of the 220 square mile Tomales Bay watershed. Council membership includes residential and community groups, agricultural interests, environmental groups, mariculture groups, recreational interests, and public agencies. We work to preserve and protect the water and land resources for sustainable uses by agriculture, aquaculture, business, environmental, recreation and residential interests. We are collaborating with PRNSA on this project, and are acting as fiscal sponsor for PRNSA on a California State Water Board grant to support the project.

The Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project is a legacy project to the community, the watershed, the Point Reyes National Seashore Association, and the National Park Service. We urge you to consider this project a funding priority.

Sincerely,



Neysa King, Watershed Coordinator

RECEIVED

AUG 15 2007

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

POST OFFICE BOX 47
YOUNTVILLE, CALIFORNIA 94599
(707) 944-5500



August 24, 2007

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
c/o Joel Gerwein, Project Manager
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support of Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express my support for the “Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project” proposed by Point Reyes National Seashore Association (PRNSA) as it will influence and benefit multiple federal and state listed species, improve water quality to Tomales Bay and is consistent with species recovery plans. Under the *Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon, Report to the California Fish and Game Commission (2004)*, this project will implement a priority task to restore Lagunitas Creek estuarine habitat to benefit coho salmon.

The project has been developed in collaboration with the community, regulatory agencies, and environmental partners. The restoration will remove the dairy operations, dairy infrastructure, and levees. One of the primary objectives is to restore natural hydrologic and ecological processes. This proposed 550-acre tidal marsh restoration at the head of Tomales Bay is the most significant measure available to reestablish natural hydrologic function to the watershed. By removing artificial impoundments and levees, the project will eliminate constraints to the Lagunitas delta and allow the largest estuarine wetland complex on the Bay to provide maximum filtration and nutrient sequestration benefits. The restoration of the natural floodplain process will allow sediment loads to be deposited and absorbed across the project site rather than continue to be delivered to the Bay itself.

Two-thirds of the freshwater input to the Bay comes from the Lagunitas and Olema creeks which flow through the project area. The Lagunitas Creek and Olema Creek watersheds support one of the southernmost, stable populations of federal and state endangered coho salmon, as well as federally threatened steelhead trout and chinook salmon. The restoration of natural hydrologic and tidal processes to the lower estuarine floodplain will result in enhancement of overwintering refugia and outmigration feeding habitat for these listed species.

As this project would increase the acreage of hydrologically connected wetlands in central California by as much as 12 percent, it is expected to have a tremendous impact

Exhibit 3: Letters of Support

on other functions provided by wetlands, such as floodwater retention, food chain support, and wildlife habitat.

The Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project is a legacy project to the community, the watershed, and the State. On behalf of the California Department of Fish and Game, I urge you to consider this project a funding priority.

I can be reached at (707) 299-9299 or gseymour@dfg.ca.gov should you need additional information.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gail Seymour
Associate Biologist/Watershed Restoration Planner